UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/316
23 April 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 22 APRIL 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the violations of Iraqi national airspace committed by aircraft of the United States, the United Kingdom and France continued over the period from 1 to 15 April 1996 and that those aircraft carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation. The details are as follows:

1. Northern region: 67 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Tall Afar.

2. Southern region: 626 sorties, flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Faraj, Qala'at Salih, Basra, Salman, Amarah, Shanafiyah and Lasaf.

3. Twelve sorties by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres which violated Iraqi airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.

4. At 1325 hours on 2 April 1996, a hostile formation broke the sound barrier over an area 20 kilometres south of Qurnah.

I request you to intervene with the above-mentioned States in order that they should cease these activities, which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq and constitute flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

These acts continue to terrorize civilians and to cause material damage to personal property and public facilities. The Republic of Iraq reaffirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage caused to the Republic of Iraq and its people.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative